

(Bard)

Some of the Subtle Issues in the Farm Labor Situation

Domestics are depressed by the feeling that their services are inferior to those of the Bracero.

The domestic, in his attempt to compete, is willing to work for any wage offered. This means that the farm workers wage has not kept pace with the general U. S. wage scale.

Domestics do not avail themselves of the law because "He (the Bracero) has a family to feed -- I couldn't take food away from his children."

The domestic is so cowered that when the report goes out that Ranch X is going to use Braceros he doesn't go to Ranch X to ask for work.

Domestics have had to struggle for every cent they have earned. When yields fall off and wages do not increase they are off to look for "greener pastures". Hence, growers are unhappy about their lack of dependability.

One wonders if some growers are as ready to declare the Bracero "unfit for work" as they sometimes declare every domestic who comes looking for work.

Has food and fiber production become so controled that it should now be considered as a "public utility"?

Can we provide one group with the tools of the trade while withholding them from another group?

Can we guarantee employment to one and not to another?

Can we subsidize labor movement for some and not for all?

In determining the wage of one group are we setting a ceiling on the other?

By using a docile work force are we making conditions of employment ~~into~~ intolerable for the "free" force?

Are we supporting a vested interest at the expense of laborers?

Is conscience and morality involved?

What obligation do we have to the economy of Mexico?

What are the three leading sources of the American dollar?

Principles we should agree upon:

Labor should return a reasonable living. A trend away from dependence upon relief.

In an economy of supports should not a basic income for the laborer also be included?

Community responsibility:

Some security from one's work respect and dignity.

If organization and group action are good for the producer is it also good for the laborer?

Should agreements be bi-lateral or uni-lateral.? Who can speak for the unorganized laborer?